

Notes

The correct names for two Australian varieties of *Ficus* L. (Moraceae)

It appears that many botanists are still unaware of the significance of changes in relation to autonyms, made in the nomenclature sessions at the International Botanical Congress in Sydney in 1981. At that time, it was decided that autonyms be accepted as validly published and dating (only) from the publication in which they were established, and that they have priority over the names that established them. These changes are still in force and are covered by Articles 32.6 and 57.3 of the current International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (ICBN) (Greuter *et al.* 1988).

In the genus *Ficus* L., there are two varieties occurring in northern Australia which need renaming to acknowledge the standing of autonyms which apply to them, if the taxonomy of the genus as detailed by Chew (1989), based on that of Corner (1960 a & b, 1961 and 1965), is accepted. Application of the ICBN to Chew's account requires that new combinations be made for the taxa presently recognised as *F. opposita* var. *micracantha* (Miq.) Corner and *F. platypoda* var. *angustata* (Miq.) Corner.

Ficus opposita* var. *aculeata (Miq.) R.J.F. Hend., **comb. nov.**, based on *Ficus aculeata* Miq., London J. Bot. 7: 426 (1848); *F. aculeata* Miq. var. *aculeata*, Bentham, Fl. Austral. 6: 175 (1873). **Type:** 'In Ora boreali (Novae Holl.?), Hb. Hook.' (holo: ?K, *n.v.*).

F. micracantha Miq., Ann. Mus. Bot. Lugduno-Batavum 3: 221 (1867); *F. aculeata* var. *micracantha* (Miq.) Benth., Fl. Austral. 6: 175 (1873); *F. opposita* var. *micracantha* (Miq.) Corner, Gard. Bull. Singapore 17: 471 (1960). **Type:** Cairnscross Is., Qld, *F. Mueller* (holo: K, *vide* Chew (1989), *n.v.*).

(See Chew, Flora of Australia 3: 57 (1989), for further synonyms.)

Bentham's publication of *F. aculeata* var. *micracantha* in 1873 established the autonym *F. aculeata* var. *aculeata* which now is taken as validly published, dating from 1873 and having priority over *F. aculeata* var. *micracantha* should the two names be considered synonymous, which both Corner (1960a) and Chew (1989) in effect did. The names *F. aculeata* and *F. aculeata* var. *aculeata* have the same nomenclatural type but they date from different publications at different times. Corner had no option in 1960 but to make a new combination based on Bentham's *F. aculeata* var. *micracantha*, then the earliest legitimate name in varietal rank available for the taxon concerned. However, after 1981, when this Bentham name was superseded by the autonym it established as the earliest legitimate combination in varietal rank available for naming the variety, a new combination should have been made for that variety in Chew's 'Flora of Australia' account. This situation is rectified above.

Ficus platypoda* var. *leichhardtii (Miq.) R.J.F. Hend., **comb. nov.** based on *Urostigma leichhardtii* Miq., J. Bot. Neerl. 1: 235 (1862); *Ficus leichhardtii* (Miq.) Miq., Ann. Mus. Bot. Lugduno-Batavum 3: 268, 287 (1867); *Ficus leichhardtii* (Miq.) Miq. var. *leichhardtii*, Miquel, Ann. Mus. Bot. Lugduno-Batavum 3: 268 (1867). **Type:** Cape Cleveland, Qld, *F. Mueller* (holo: *n.v.*).

Ficus leichhardtii var. *angustata* Miq., Ann. Mus. Bot. Lugduno-Batavum 3: 268 (1867); *Ficus platypoda* var. *angustata* (Miq.) Corner, Gard. Bull. Singapore 21: 27 (1965). **Type:** Whitsunday Is., Qld, *Henne* (iso: NSW, *vide* Chew (1989), *n.v.*).

(See Chew, Flora of Australia 3: 46 (1989), for further synonyms.)

When describing *F. leichhardtii* var. *angustata* in 1867, Miquel created the autonym *F. leichhardtii* var. *leichhardtii* which is now taken as validly published and having priority over *F. leichhardtii* var. *angustata* if the two are treated as applying to the same taxon. As Chew (1989), following Corner (1965), accepted that this is the case, he should have made a new combination under *F. platypoda* using the epithet *leichhardtii* for the variety concerned, rather than accepting Corner's combination *F. platypoda* var. *angustata* for it. Though this latter name was the correct one for the variety until 1981, when the International Botanical Congress changed the status of autonoms, Corner's name for it became unacceptable. The combination made above rectifies the situation.

If *F. platypoda* var. *leichhardtii* is united with *F. platypoda* var. *lachnocaulos* (Miq.) Benth. following Chew's comments about the similarity of these two varieties, the correct name for the combined taxon would continue to be *F. platypoda* var. *leichhardtii* because Miquel's autonym *F. leichhardtii* var. *leichhardtii* would be the earliest legitimate name in varietal rank available for this taxon. Note that the final epithet in the name *F. platypoda* var. *lachnocaulos* has been corrected to follow ICBN Arts. 23.5 and 32.5, and Stearn (1987, p. 264).

Rodney J. F. Henderson

Queensland Herbarium, Meiers Road, Indooroopilly, Qld 4068, Australia

References

- CHEW, W.-L. (1989). Moraceae. *Ficus*. *Flora of Australia* 3: 26–68.
- CORNER, E.J.H. (1960a). Taxonomic notes on *Ficus* Linn., Asia and Australasia. Sections 1–4. *The Gardens' Bulletin Singapore* 17: 368–485.
- (1960b). Taxonomic notes on *Ficus* Linn., Asia and Australasia. Sections 5 & 6. *The Gardens' Bulletin Singapore* 18: 1–69.
- (1961). Taxonomic notes on *Ficus* Linn., Asia and Australasia. Addendum. *The Gardens' Bulletin Singapore* 18: 83–97.
- (1962). Taxonomic notes on *Ficus* Linn., Asia and Australasia. Addendum II. *The Gardens' Bulletin Singapore* 19: 385–401.
- (1965). Check-list of *Ficus* in Asia and Australasia with keys to identification. *The Gardens' Bulletin Singapore* 21: 1–186.
- GREUTER, W., BURDET, H. M., CHALONER, W.G., DEMOULIN, V., GROLLE, R., HAWKSWORTH, D. L., NICOLSON, D. H., SILVA, P. C., STAFLEU, F. A., VOSS, E. G. & McNEILL, J. (eds) (1988). International code of botanical nomenclature, adopted by the Fourteenth International Botanical Congress, Berlin, July–August 1987. *Regnum Vegetabile* 118.
- STEARNS, W. T. (1987). *Botanical Latin*, 3rd ed., 4th impression. Newton Abbot: David & Charles.